

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01211 040201Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----092981 040204Z /70

O 040033Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0428
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 01211

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF
SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP RESPONSE TO SWAPO REQUEST
FOR ASSURANCES ON WALVIS BAY

REF: SECTO 03079

1. AMBASSADOR LEONARD OPENED CONTACT GROUP (CG)
MEETING APRIL 3 BY PRESENTING PROPOSED PUBLIC STATEMENT
ON WALVIS BAY IN MANNER OUTLINED REFTEL. ALL FOUR
(UK AND FRG ON INSTRUCTION, OTHERS WITHOUT) STRONGLY
URGED DELAY IN MAKING ANY SUCH OFFER TO SWAPO UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT ALLOW IT TO BE USED
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AS ONE AND OF A NEGOTIATING TRADE-OFF,GIVING SOME-
THING TO BOTH SIDES. JOINT POSITION OF FOUR WAS:
- --IF SUCH AN OFFER WAS MADE TO SWAPO ON WALVIS
BAY, IT WOULD SURELY BECOME KNOWN TO SOUTH AFRICA,
EVEN IF SWAPO REJECTED IT AND PUBLIC STATEMENT NEVER
MADE;
- --THUS US PROPOSAL, EVEN IF PUBLIC STATEMENT

NEVER MADE, PRESENTED SERIOUS RISKS OF UNDERMINING
WHATEVER CHANCE THERE NOW WAS OF SAG ACCEPTANCE OF
OVERALL PROPOSALS. SAG, AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE OF
PROCESS, WOULD ACCUSE US OF BAD FAITH, ON GROUNDS WE NOW,
FOR FIRST TIME, PREJUDGING OUTCOME OF FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS
ON WALVIS BAY;

- --IN RETURN FOR THIS RISK, THERE WAS NO
ASSURANCE THAT SWAPO WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN OFFER
(I.E., ACCEPT PUBLIC STATEMENT IN RETURN FOR SWAPO
PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF OVERALL PROPOSALS).
- --FIVE WOULD CERTAINLY AT SOME POINT HAVE TO
MAKE STATEMENT ON WAALVIS BAY AND WHEN THAT POINT
CAME, LANGUAGE AS IN US DRAFT WOULD PROBABLY BE
ACCEPTABLE. PROBLEM WAS ONE OF TIMING;
- --STATEMENT BY FIVE ON WALVIS BAY
ALONG LINES US SUGGESTION SHOULD BE HELD UP PENDING
SAG AND SWAPO REACTIONS TO WESTERN PROPOSALS.
SINCE IT WAS LIKELY THAT ACCEPTANCE BY EITHER PARTY
WOULD NOT BE UNCONDITIONAL, WESTERN STATEMENT ON
WALVIS BAY -- AN ACTION WHICH FAVORED SWAPO --
MIGHT BE USEFUL LATER ON AS PART OF A TRADE-OFF
WHICH ALSO OFFERED SAG SOMETHING IN RETURN.

2. US SIDE AGREED TO REPORT REACTIONS OF FOUR TO
WASHINGTON. CG WILL MEET AGAIN 10:30 APRIL 4.

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3. COMMENT: US SIDE DID NOT OUTLINE TO FOUR DEGREE TO
WHICH US HAS ALREADY ROUNDED OUT OTHERS ON GIST OF OUR
PROPOSAL. NOR DID US SIDE MAKE EXPLICIT US WILLINGNESS
TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT FOUR. SUBSEQUENT TO CG MEETING,
UKUN CALLED TO SAY THEY HAD JUST LEARNED OF A US
APPROACH TO PRESIDENT KHAMA REGARDING US PROPOSAL.
UKUN PREDICTED ANGRY RESPONSE FROM LONDON IF
US IN FACT HAD DECIDED TO MOVE UNILATERALLY.
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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